

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 20, 2005. Claims 1-21 were pending in the Application. Applicant amended Claims 11 and 15 and cancelled Claim 12. Claims 1-10 and 17-21 are withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Specification

The informalities in the specification raised in the Office Action have been addressed by the above amendments. Favorable action is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects Claims 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 15 has been amended in a manner that more explicitly defines what is being claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is not indefinite. Favorable action is requested. The cancellation of Claim 12 renders moot the rejection of that claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,276,901 to Howell et al ("*Howell*"). Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Howell* as applied to Claim 11, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,765,152 to Erickson ("*Erickson*"). Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Howell* and further in view of *Erickson*.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 11 recites "the at least one document caveat representing a necessary condition for access to the document;" "the at least one user caveat representing a condition necessary for the authenticated user to have access to a document having an associated at least one document caveat;" "comparing the at least one document caveat of the requested document to the at least one user caveat of the authenticated user;" and "displaying the secure document to the authenticated user in response to the clearance level of the user dominating the clearance level of the requested document and the comparison of the at least one document caveat of the requested document to the at least one

user caveat of the authenticated user.” The above-cited references do not show this combination of limitations.

The Office Action concedes that *Howell* does not utilize document caveats, but relies on the permissions of *Erickson* to teach that limitation in rejecting Claim 15. But that reliance is misplaced, as it would be with respect to Claim 11. The permissions of *Erickson* refer to usage rights and not document caveats. In fact, as defined by the permissions shown in *Erickson*, all users have access to all information; they simply may not be able to modify the information. *Erickson* simply does not show “displaying the secure document to the authenticated user in response to the clearance level of the user dominating the clearance level of the requested document and the comparison of the at least one document caveat of the requested document to the at least one user caveat of the authenticated user.”

For at least this reason, Claim 11 is allowable, as are the claims depending therefrom. Claims 15 and 16 are allowable for analogous reasons. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

CONCLUSION

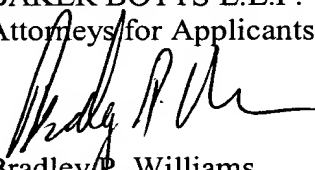
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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